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A1 1. (Amended) A tampon comprising a rolled up web of absorbent material having a removal cord comprising synthetic fibers looped around the web, wherein the tampon is compressed in a manner that essentially pleats the web and the removal cord has an extensibility of greater than about 25 percent to prevent damage to the cord during manufacture.

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A2 14. (Amended) A tampon comprising a rolled up web of absorbent material having a removal cord comprising synthetic fibers looped around the web, wherein the tampon is compressed in a manner that essentially pleats the web and the removal cord has a two-phase, tensile stress-strain curve having an inflection point between a first and a second phase to prevent damage to the cord during manufacture.

Please cancel claims 10-13, without prejudice.

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-22 were filed in this application. These claims have been rejected under various rejections. As outlined above, Claims 1 and 14 have been amended, and Claims 10-13 have been canceled. Therefore, Claims 1-9 and 14-22 are pending in this application.

The amended claims are fully supported in the specification as originally filed. In particular, the newly added language in Claims 1 and 14 is supported in the specification at page 6, line 5, through page 7, line 5, and in Figs. 2 and 6.